

ABSTRACT

A system and method for generating and utilizing a computer model of the craniofacial features of a patient is claimed. To create the computer model, three-dimensional data regarding the patient's facial features, dental features and skeletal features is collected. Data regarding facial features is acquired using laser scanning and digital photograph. Data regarding dental features are acquired by physically modeling the teeth and laser scanning the models. Lastly, data regarding the skeletal features is obtained from radiographs. The data are combined into a single computer model that can be manipulated and viewed in the three-dimensions. The model also has the ability to be animated between the current modeled craniofacial features and theoretical craniofacial features.